Central New Jersey Warmwater Game Fish



Largemouth Bass

One of the most sought after freshwater fish nationwide, largemouth bass can be found in almost every New Jersey lake, pond, slow moving river or stream.

Where

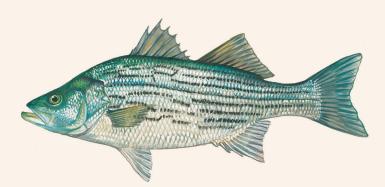
New Jersey has a wide variety of excellent habitat for largemouth bass including deep clear lakes, shallow stained lakes, lakes with aquatic vegetation, tidal freshwater rivers, and small park ponds. Assunpink Lake, Farrington Lake and Round Valley Reservoir offer excellent largemouth bass fishing opportunities,

When

Bass move into shallows in spring and remain through early summer and in late September and October feed heavily in shallow water prior to winter.

How

Largemouth bass bite a variety of baits and lures throughout the year. Crankbaits, jerkbaits, jigs, plastic worms and fish imitations, spinnerbaits, and topwater lures are extremely effective. Live shiners fished with a float during the spring and summer can produce some giants.



Striped Bass Hybrid

The striped bass hybrid is a cross between a white bass and a striped bass. The combined traits of these two species make it a hard hitting and strong fighting fish.

Where

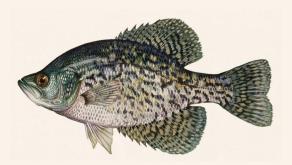
Manasquan and Spruce Run Reservoirs are two outstanding hybrid striped bass lakes. In Manasquan target primarily deeper areas of lake in warmer months. In Spruce Run, they are found in the top 10 feet of the water column during the summer. They will be located at more varied depth ranges in the fall and spring in both reservoirs.

When

Summer is most productive for striped bass hybrids. Early morning and a couple of hours before sunset are prime times.

How

Most popular techniques are drifting or anchored in a boat using herring or shiners with a weight or live-lined. Shoreline anglers fish night crawlers or chicken liver on bottom.



Crappie

Though two species of crappie are present in New Jersey (black and white), the black crappie is more widespread and sought after. Black crappies are excellent table fare. A schooling fish, crappie fishing can be fast paced when located.

Where

Crappies love structure! They have a tendency to school in open water, relating to stumps, standing timber and artificial structure such as brush piles. Assunpink Lake and Spruce Run Reservoir are popular locations among anglers.

When

In early spring many fish move from the deep areas of a lake to shallow vegetated areas where spawning will occur. Crappies begin to move to slightly deeper, cooler water in early summer. Caught in greater numbers in the colder months with November and March being the two best months.

How

Small plastic jigs or hair jigs in a variety of colors. Live bait, such as minnow, killifish, small shiners and worms, can improve catches. Crappies are not always on the bottom so the use of a bobber can be important. Small spinners also work well.



Smallmouth Bass

Best known for their airborne leaps and sudden deep dives, smallmouth bass are one of the most exciting species to catch.

Where

Smallies prefer cool, clear, swift rivers and cool, deep, rocky lakes. Manasquan Reservoir has an excellent smallmouth bass fishery as well as Round Valley Reservoir. Spruce Run Reservoir also provides some limited opportunities for anglers.

When

The best time is spring through fall, with fall probably the best when smallmouth begin to school up and feed heavily before winter.

How

Minnows, worms, crayfish, and hellgrammites are common live baits. Crawfish imitators including tubes and jigs work well in addition to the same lures used for largemouth bass.



Northern Pike

The northern pike is a very aggressive, hard fighting fish that prefers relatively shallow weedy areas of lakes and slow moving rivers. Although bony, their flesh is very tasty and makes excellent fish cakes.

Where

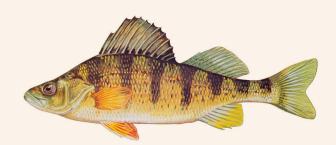
Northern pike waters in central Jersey include Spruce Run Reservoir, Farrington Lake, Deal Lake and the Millstone River. Fish the pockets in weedy areas and along the weedline in lakes and around fallen trees and deeper holes in rivers.

When

Best during the cooler seasons of spring, fall and winter. Pike feed entirely in daylight with morning considered to be the best fishing period.

How

Large shiners fished on the bottom or with a bobber are effective in both lakes and rivers. A light wire leader is recommended when using live bait. Cast or trolled large spoons and spinners are also very effective.



Yellow Perch

Yellow perch are known for their excellent fight on light tackle and flavorful taste. Perch are one of the premier species targeted by ice anglers.

Where

Lake anglers will find yellow perch around edges of aquatic vegetation and near stumps. Waters below spillways can produce good size perch.

When

Yellow perch are active all year long, however the cooler months of September through May are best.

How

Small minnows and worms on hook and sinker or bobber in shallow water. Small hair jigs, plastic tubes, twister tails and small spinners and minnow imitators work well.



Chain Pickerel

Chain pickerel can be found in many largemouth bass waters where like bass, they prefer vegetative and woody cover.

Where

Chain pickerel live in a wide range of habitats and are one of the few game fish that are able to tolerate the low pH (acidic) waters. The majority of the year pickerel can be located in shallow bays and near shorelines.

When

Chain pickerel bite year round and are commonly sought by ice anglers. Spring and fall are excellent times to target chain pickerel since they prefer cooler water.

How

Chain pickerel will eat almost anything that moves at times. Live bait such as killifish, minnows and shiners are great baits. Lures such as in line spinners, spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, plastic worms and topwater lures are tops. In shallow weedbeds use plastic jerkbaits such as the Slug-go, Fin-S, Flappin' Shad, and Zoom Fluke.



Channel Catfish

The largest member of the catfish family found in New Jersey, this nonnative grows to trophy proportions and is a popular food fish. It is found in the Delaware River and in over 70 waters stocked by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Where

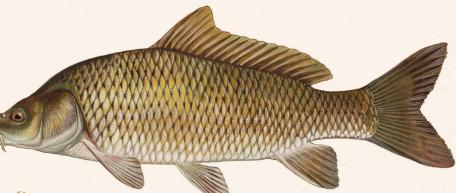
Usually found in clear, warm lakes and moderately large to large rivers over clean sand, gravel or rock-rubble bottoms. The Division stocks approximately 70 waters and many provide excellent fisheries.

When

Early spring to early fall, with summer the most consistent period. Although channel catfish can be caught at any time of day, nighttime is the most productive.

How

They feed mostly at night but can be caught anytime. The most productive method and baits are those described for brown bullheads.



Carp

A member of the minnow family, carp are long-lived, hard fighters and grow to over 30 pounds.

Where

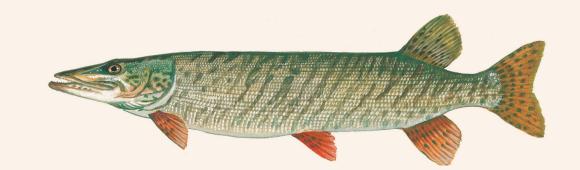
Can be found in almost every reservoir, lake, pond, river or stream in New Jersey. D & R Canal, Raritan River and Spruce Run Reservoirs are popular among carp anglers.

When Spring

Spring and summer are the most productive times for catching carp by rod and reel.

How

Use kernels of nibblet corn or dough balls (find recipes on Internet) rigged on a single bronzed #8-#14 bait holder hook on fish-finder style rig with the least amount of weight possible.



Muskellunge

This largest member of the pike family is a highly prized sportfish for many anglers. Reaching over 4 feet in length, Jersey muskies grow to trophy proportions that rival fish from many of the best waters in the country.

Where

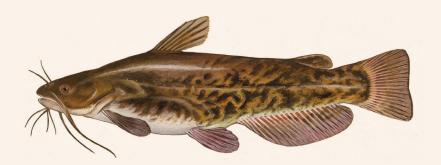
Central Jersey muskie waters include Manasquan Reservoir, D&R Canal and Mercer, Deal, Shenandoah and Carnegie Lakes. Muskies are generally a shallowwater fish, preferring areas of weeds, logs and other cover in both lake and river environments.

When

Fishing is relatively consistent from late spring to mid-fall, with September and October considered two of the best months.

How

Cast large, 5- to 9-inch, sucker or perch colored crankbaits and stick baits or ½ to 1 oz. bucktail spinners or spinnerbaits around available structure and edges of weed beds. Live baits such as large shiners and suckers are also popular.



Brown Bullhead

This native catfish is found in numerous waterbodies, large and small, throughout the state. It is a bottom dweller and tolerates very warm water, and low oxygen levels.

Where

Widely distributed in a variety of waters from small urban ponds to larger lakes and rivers. Good brown bullhead fishing opportunities can be found nearly everywhere.

When

Can be caught at any time of day but most active at night. Summer evenings are the most popular time to fish for them.

How

Fishing technique for bullheads is very simply a bottom rig consisting of a hook and sinker. Popular baits are night crawlers, chicken liver, cut fish and commercial stink and cheese baits.



The sunfish is one of the most widespread and abundant freshwater fish in New Jersey. The most commonly sought species are bluegill, pumpkinseed and redbreast sunfish.

Where

Sunfish are found in most freshwaters throughout the state. Good populations of bluegill and pumpkinseed can be found in municipal, county and state park ponds and lakes.

When

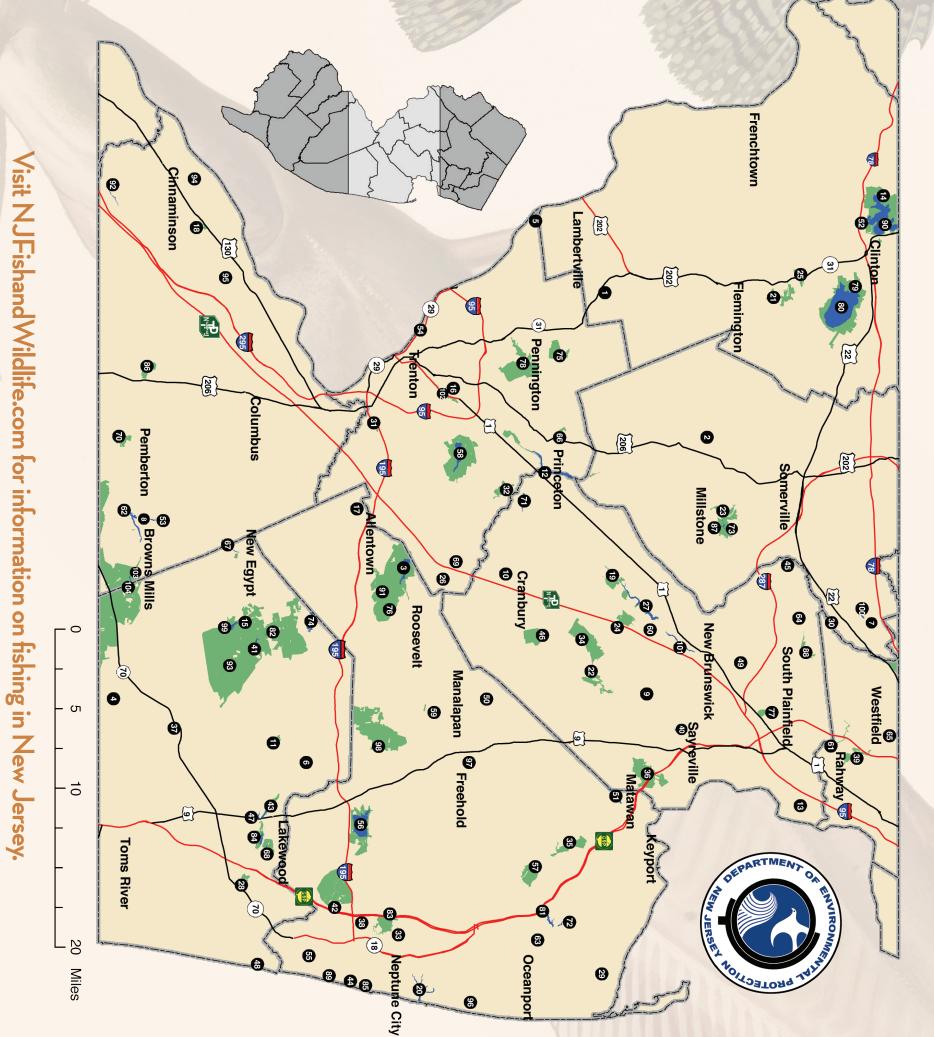
The months of May through October are most productive when water temperatures are between 60-80 degrees.

How

The most popular method is hook and bobber with worms or grubs. Any department store or sports shop has inexpensive rod and reel combos, tackle and bait needed to catch sunfish.



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Central New Jersey Fishing Locales





NJ Dept. of Environmental Pre Division of Fish and Wildlife P.O. Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420



in Central New Jersey



Fishing has never been better in the Garden State!

2010 License Information & Fees

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

\$72.25	firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)
	All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing,
09.018	Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing
6\$	Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing
07\$	Non-resident Trout Stamp
\$34	Non-resident Fishing (Age 16 yrs. and older)
09.01\$	Resident Trout Stamp (Ages 16–69 yrs.)
	Senior Resident Fishing (Ages 65–69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free
\$55.50	Resident Fishing (Ages 16–61 yrs.)
	riceuses

A New Jersey fishing license can be purchased and printed quickly and conveniently online at NJFishandWildlife.com or at any license agent location listed on the Web site. License buyers have the satisfaction of knowing 100 percent of their money goes toward improving fishing in New Jersey and protecting the quality of the state's Waters both for fish and people.



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scrappy smallmouth bass.

are now thriving and New Jersey anglers routinely catch many bragging-sized fish. Outstanding statewide fisheries for largemouth and smallmouth bass, pickerel and numerous panfish species round out the smorgasbord of fishing choices available to New Jersey anglets.

If you've drifted away from fishing in New Jersey, it's time to get out there and see how much things have changed. If you've never fished here, there's no better time than now to experience New Jersey's first-class freshwater angling. The information in this brochure will help you get started and provide a road map for navigating all the angling possibilities within a short drive from anywhere.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Web site, www.WFishandWildlife.com, has a wealth of information on fishing in New Jersey with very specific information on where to fish for various fish throughout the state. There is also how-to fishing information for both beginners as well as advanced anglers targeting specific species.

> Find the the carden been better in the Garden State, and you owe it to yourself to make time to enjoy it. Spending time outdoors and on the water by yourself or with family and friends is the perfect antidote to our heetic 2.1 st century lifestyle. Fishing is affordable, too, and one of the best gateways for getting kids interested in outdoor activities. As a bonus, there are tons of great fish just waiting to be caught in our plentiful great fish just waiting to be caught in our plentiful streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

> New Jersey fishing has something for every level of angler, too. It can be as relaxing or as challenging as you want to make it. From a family outing for panfish on the banks of a public pond, to chasing world-class game fish – New Jersey has it all.

> Reasons why New Jersey fishing is better than ever include the addition and development of fisheries for a number of popular game fish over the last 20 years. Muskellunge, walleye, northern pike, channel catifsh and hybrid striped bass fisheries



ybrid striped bass are called rockets; catch one and you'll know why!